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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/019,869	05/09/2002	Soren Blirup-Jensen	3276.1003-000	8081
21005	7590	04/20/2004		
		HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C. 530 VIRGINIA ROAD P.O. BOX 9133 CONCORD, MA 01742-9133	EXAMINER	DAVIS, DEBORAH A
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1641	

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/019,869	BLIRUP-JENSEN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Deborah A Davis	1641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12-6-02.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 23-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 23-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alter et al (USP#5,753,094).

Alter et al anticipates the invention in providing kits for Capillary Zone Electrophoresis (CZE) analysis that includes gel buffer and benzoic acid (column 3, lines 56-67 and column 4, lines 21-30, column 8, lines 50-64).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 24-35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alter et al in view of Hicks et al (Laboratory Instrumentation, 3rd addition).

Alter et al teaches compositions for use in electrophoresis procedures that include the use of gel buffers comprising benzoic acid (see abstract, summary and column 6). These electrophoresis procedures can involve Immunofixation Electrophoresis, Capillary Zone Electrophoresis and Immunosubstraction Electrophoresis (column 2, lines 30-40). The clinical samples prepared for electrophoretic analysis can be whole blood, plasma and urine (column 3, lines 50-55). Binding partners to a sample of interest, can be formed by coupling the specific binding partners to a solid support using Sepharose gel (column 7, lines 19-41). Benzoic acid and salts of benzoic acid are used in the electrophoresis buffer at various concentrations (column 4, lines 13-19). A power supply was connected to the electrophoretic apparatus at 9000 volts for 5 minutes to perform electrophoresis (column 10, lines 1-31).

Alter et al does not recites the specific steps in the instant method and is silent with respect to specific concentrations.

However, Hicks et al teaches basic electrophoretic procedures for Immunofixation and Zone Electrophoresis that recite basic steps of drying, staining and

destaining for detection of monoclonal antibodies and other proteins and running the buffer in the electrophoretic apparatus until complete (see page 161 and 173).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Alter et al with the teaching of Hicks et al laboratory procedures because electrophoretic techniques are well known in the art and can be adapted to standard protocols as taught by Hicks et al. Further, such electrophoretic methods offer speed in separation of proteins and good resolution of proteins components (see page 173 of Hicks et al). With respect to specific concentrations as recited in claims 31-35, one would vary the optimal concentration of the buffer to achieve maximum resolution of the protein in question.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- A. Chen et al (USP#5,228,960) teaches a method and electrolyte buffer in the analysis of samples comprising glycoproteins by CZE (see abstract).
- B. Cheng-Ming et al teaches methodologies for Capillary Electrophoretic Immunosubtraction of samples (USP#5,228,960).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Deborah A Davis whose telephone number is (571) 272-0818. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5 Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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April 15, 2004



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04/19/04